



# LOOKOUT SLOUGH TIDAL HABITAT RESTORATION AND FLOOD IMPROVEMENT PROJECT

## Cache Slough Complex

### TIDAL HABITAT AND FLOOD IMPROVEMENT

The Lookout Slough Tidal Habitat Restoration and Flood Improvement Project (Project) is located in the Cache Slough region, one of the key areas in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta (Delta) with elevations favorable for maintaining tidal habitats for the endangered Delta smelt. The proposed Project would restore approximately 3,000 acres of tidal wetland, creating habitat that is beneficial to native fish and wildlife. Lookout Slough is adjacent to additional tidal habitat restoration efforts being implemented by the Department of Water Resources (DWR), including Yolo Flyway Farms and Lower Yolo Ranch, to create a contiguous tidal wetland restoration complex spanning 16,000 acres in the Cache Slough region. Once completed, the proposed Project would be the Delta's largest single tidal habitat restoration project to date.

In addition to the restoration of important tidal wetland habitat, the proposed multi-benefits of this Project will meet objectives of the Central Valley Flood Protection Plan to reduce flood risk. The proposed Project includes construction of a new setback levee along the west and north edges of the site to allow for breaching the existing Yolo Bypass West Levee along Shag Slough. The new setback levee will provide 100-year flood protection with additional height for climate change and sea level rise resiliency. Breaching and degrading the existing levees will restore historical tidal influence on the site, providing food web and other benefits to Delta smelt and increasing seasonal floodplain rearing habitat for salmonids.

This effort is being implemented by DWR through a partnership with Ecosystem Investment Partners (EIP) and Reclamation District 2098. Partnering with EIP and leveraging

their unique expertise in planning, permitting and constructing large-scale restoration projects will allow DWR to implement this effort in a timely manner. The project is expected to be complete by 2022.

The Project is intended to partially fulfill DWR's 8,000-acre tidal habitat restoration obligations pursuant to the 2008 U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) Delta Smelt Biological Opinion (BiOp) and is consistent with the 2009 National Marine Fisheries Service (NMFS) Salmonid BiOp for long-term coordinated operations of the State Water Project and the federal Central Valley Project.

#### RESTORATION GOALS / TARGET

1. Create and maintain diverse intertidal and subtidal habitat to support native species and improved food productivity within the Project area.
2. Design and implement the Project to support viable populations of special status aquatic and terrestrial species.
3. Provide additional flood storage and conveyance within the Yolo Bypass to reduce the chance of catastrophic flooding and protect existing nearby infrastructure (e.g. agriculture, power and human habitation).

#### LOCATION AND LANDOWNER

Lookout Slough is located in the Cache Slough region at the lower end of the Yolo Bypass in Solano County. EIP is the current owner of the Lookout Slough site and will complete necessary permitting and construction efforts.



Upon completion of permitting, DWR will take on ownership of the site and will maintain the site long term in partnership with the California Department of Fish and Wildlife and Reclamation District 2098 for levee maintenance.

### FUNDING

Funding for this Project is provided through two separate sources based on specific benefits. The habitat restoration objectives of the project will be funded by the State Water Project and State Water Contractors (\$97,000,000), and the flood protection objectives will be funded by Proposition 1 – for multi-benefit and systemwide flood improvements (\$21,865,000). The estimated total cost of the project is approximately \$118,865,000.

### TIMELINE

This Project is proposed to be completed by 2022

- ▶ California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA)  
 Notice of Preparation – Spring 2019
- ▶ Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) Released  
 for Public Review and Comment – Winter 2019
- ▶ Final EIR Certified – November 2020
- ▶ Begin Construction - Spring 2021
- ▶ End Construction – Fall 2023
- ▶ Long term operations and maintenance and monitoring -  
 Fall 2023 and beyond

### PERMITTING

- ▶ CEQA/National Environmental Policy Act
- ▶ National Historic Preservation Act – Section 106
- ▶ USFWS Endangered Species Act - Section 7
- ▶ NMFS Endangered Species Act - Section 7
- ▶ US Army Corps of Engineers - Section 404 and Section 408
- ▶ Central Valley Regional Water Quality Board - Section 401
- ▶ California Department of Fish and Wildlife - Streambed  
 Alteration Agreement and California Endangered Species  
 Act Incidental Take Permit
- ▶ Central Valley Flood Protection Board – Encroachment Permit
- ▶ Delta Stewardship Council - Delta Plan Consistency  
 Determination



### PROJECT PROPONENT

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